

Julia M. Lawson House
River Street Historic District
81 N. River Street
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No.

CA-2374

HABS
CAL
43-SAN JOSE,
39-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

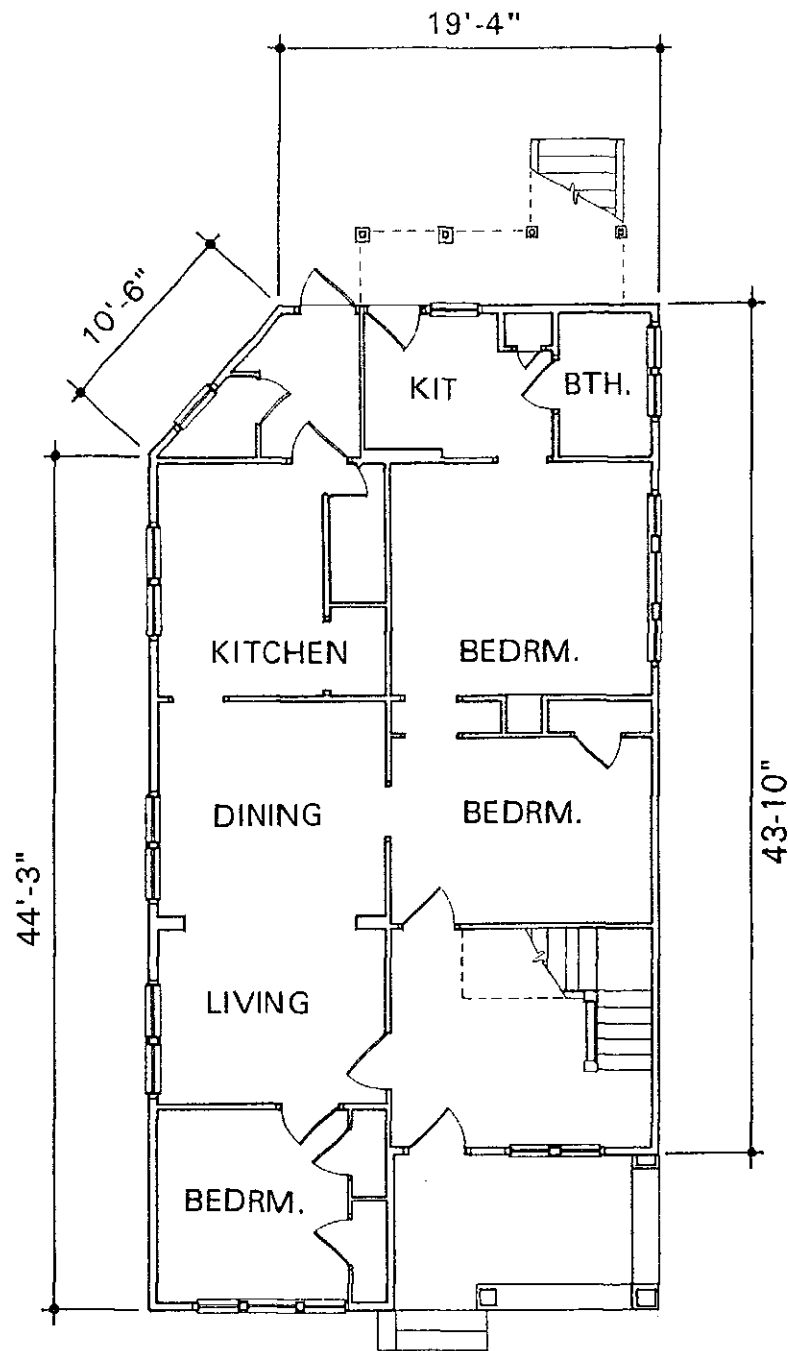
HABSCAL
43 - SAN JOSE,
39 -

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Julia M. Lawson House

HABS No. CA-2374

- Location: 81 North River Street, River Street Historic District
San Jose, California
UTM Coordinates: 10-597675-4132300
- Significance: The Julia M. Lawson House, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms an integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century working class neighborhood in San Jose.
- Description: The Julia M. Lawson House is a two-story multi-family residence. This wood framed residence was originally sided in wood, but is now clad in asbestos shingles. An inset porch through a half porch on the north half of the front facade marks the entrance. The fenestration generally consists of paired four over one wood double hung windows with plain trim. A parapet with wooden cornice moldings hides the building's flat roof. The second floor stair is located in the front entry hall, and the layout of the first floor contains two living units each with a kitchen and bathroom. A recently built wood fire stair provides rear access to the second floor and is supported by plain 3 x 3 wood posts on 8" square concrete bases. The building's style--a plain two-story box whose dominant features are a parapeted roof and cornice moldings--is something of an anomaly in this district of ornamental cottages with one main floor and pitched roofs.
- History: The house was constructed around 1910 as a multiple property dwelling with the owner occupying one of the flats. This house was owned by Julia M. Lawson and occupied for many years by by Mrs. Lawson and her husband Judd L. Lawson, a fruit buyer. The Lawsons first lived in the house in 1911 and remained there until 1936, when Judd Lawson presumably died; Mrs. Lawson was listed as the sole owner who occupied the building until 1943. In 1930 Judd Lawson lived next door at 79 North River Street but returned the following year. Various other parties occupied the other flats, and the number of separate units eventually reached six. One long-term tenant was J.J. Tiernan, a watchman, who lived in a unit from 1933 to 1937.
- Sources: California Historic Resources Inventory Form, prepared by Stephen D. Mikesell, 1988.
San Jose City Directories.
San Jose 1924 Block Map.
- Historian: Hardlines: Design & Delineation
Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland
July - October, 1993



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1" = 10' - 0"